

special, or runoff) in which the Member is a candidate.

6.1.2 *Uncontested candidate.* When the Senate Rules Committee receives written certification from the appropriate state official that the Member's candidacy may not be contested under state law, that candidate is uncontested. A Member running for re-election in a state that permits write-in votes for the Member's election shall be considered a contested candidate and is subject to the restrictions in this section.

6.1.3 *Mass communication.* Means an electronic communication including, but not limited to, posting to an Official Website, automated telephone calls for events such as Tele-Town Halls, and electronic mail transmission of substantially identical content to 500 or more recipients.

6.2 During the moratorium period, no Member office may seek constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls) via a mass communication using Senate Internet Services unless the Member is an uncontested candidate. Nor shall a Member do so on behalf of another Member unless the other Member is an uncontested candidate.

6.3 No Member office may transmit an unsolicited mass communication during the moratorium period unless the Member is an uncontested candidate. A mass communication to a subscriber list or a post on an Official Website available to voluntary followers is deemed to be solicited and is therefore permitted during the moratorium period (subject to the limitations of 6.2).

6.4 Communications in the normal course of Senate official business such as in direct response to a constituent, another Member of Congress, or a federal, state or local government official and a news release to the communications media are permitted during the moratorium period.

6.5 A Member subject to the restrictions in this section shall display the following statement on the Member's Official Senate Website homepage: "Pursuant to Senate Policy, petitions, opinion polls and unsolicited mass electronic communications cannot be initiated by this office for the 60-day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election. Subscribers currently receiving electronic communications from this office who wish to unsubscribe may do so here (link)." The words "Senate Policy" must be hypertext linked to these rules displayed on the Member's home page.

6.6 A Member may not use another Senate office such as a Senate committee to circumvent these Rules.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, on the eve of Veterans Day and the 240th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, I rise to speak about the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA.

This legislation has taken a circuitous route to get to where it is today. The President correctly vetoed the original bill as it was a flawed product. It was flawed in the sense that it unfairly exempted the defense budget from the same draconian budget caps on nondefense programs by utilizing the overseas contingency operations, OCO. While this approach would have funded the defense bill, it neglected our economic security and left unaddressed important national priorities including law enforcement, education, transpor-

tation and community development, and medical research. A strong economy and strong communities are the backbone of our national security, and we should not divide our country into two Americas—defense on one side and everyone else on the other. That is not the way Congress should be doing business, and that is why our military leaders, led by Secretary of Defense Carter, opposed the earlier versions of this year's NDAA.

The bill, which we passed 91-3 today, comes after passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act, which provides balanced relief from cuts to ensure we have a strong defense and a strong economy. I supported this revised bill. While it was not a perfect bill, it is the result of a bipartisan compromise by the Congress. The fiscal year 2016 NDAA provides the men and women of our Armed Forces with the resources and equipment they need to defend our Nation and protect its interests.

I commend Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED for their leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee in creating and shepherding this vital legislation through this chamber. The outstanding and bipartisan efforts of committee members will allow the defense authorization bill to become law for the 54th consecutive year.

I am proud to serve alongside Chairman WICKER as ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee and want to thank him for leading the subcommittee which helps ensure that our Navy and Marine Corps forces are trained and equipped to conduct the vital missions they are tasked to complete. A strong and prepared Navy and Marines is absolutely essential to our national security strategies in the Asia-Pacific region, and this bill supports those efforts.

This NDAA includes a number of provisions that reaffirm the importance of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific; support the men and women who serve in our military and the Hawaii National Guard; invest in Hawaii's military bases, schools, and facilities and those that assess the ballistic missile capabilities of rogue nations and the current capacity to defend Hawaii against missile threats.

Our support of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is critical. Maintenance of stability in this region cannot be underestimated. Continued engagement and partnership with our friends and allies in the region is invaluable. By extending the State Partnership Program, we not only hone the capabilities and readiness of our National Guard, but we gain the dual benefit of enhancing our partnerships and the capacity of regional neighbors.

However, I do have some concerns with the final bill that I intend to work on going forward.

While my colleagues and I continue to work to reduce redundancy and increase efficiencies within our military, I would have serious concerns if across-

the-board reductions to headquarters operations were made by the Department of Defense implementing this bill. In talking with military commanders, I know that cuts at command headquarters to include U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, U.S. Army Pacific and Pacific Air Forces, which are all based in Hawaii, would impact our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

We need to ensure that any reductions are carefully thought out and take into account the assigned missions and right sizing of headquarters to adequately support the demands we place on our operational forces. I will closely monitor the Pentagon's implementation of these provisions going forward.

In addition, I want to ensure that the men and women of the Department who travel for extended periods of time on official business are reimbursed for food and lodging at appropriate levels. Last year the Department changed how these workers are reimbursed, and the bill passed today directs the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to review the issue and report back to Congress. I will be tracking the GAO report on this important issue, as well as the Department's implementation of their extended Temporary Travel Duty, TDY, policy.

While the passage of this legislation is critical, it still contains misguided provisions I have long disagreed with and that negatively affect our security, as well as the men and women who defend this Nation. An area I strongly disagree with is in regard to the restrictions on transferring prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. These harm our security interests and continue to undermine our leadership on human rights. We need to work towards a solution to close this facility.

Despite these concerns, this legislation is a product of a sincere bipartisan and bicameral effort to provide the men and women of our military the tools and resources it needs to defend our great Nation.

OBSERVING VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate Veterans Day and to thank all those who have served our country for their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice.

As many of my colleagues know, President Woodrow Wilson first established this holiday—originally known as Armistice Day—on November 11, 1919, to honor the brave Americans who fought and died in World War I. After the end of World War II, Armistice Day was expanded to honor all veterans of our military services, and the holiday's name was changed to Veterans Day.

My home State of Maryland has a long and proud military tradition dating to the first militiamen who set foot in the Maryland Colony in 1634; to the

War of 1812, where our soldiers famously held Fort McHenry and our national anthem, the “Star-Spangled Banner,” was penned; through both world wars; Korea; Vietnam; the Persian Gulf war; and our most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Maryland’s veterans and troops represent the best of our State and our Nation.

Earlier this year, I had an opportunity to help present a Congressional Gold Medal to former Tuskegee Airman William A. Colbert, Jr., a lifelong Marylander. Mr. Colbert enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1943 and achieved the rank of flight officer at the Tuskegee Army Air Field. While Mr. Colbert never saw combat, he learned to fly with the best and became a full-fledged Red Tail. And as part of the first all-Black combat unit in the U.S. Armed Forces, Mr. Colbert and his fellow servicemen broke through racial barriers without any expectation of fame or fanfare. Their distinguished service and enduring courage played a critical role in the later desegregation of our Nation’s military. Mr. Colbert always considered his contribution to the Tuskegee Airmen and his service to our country simply as what he was called to do as a citizen. Mr. Colbert passed away in early June but not before we were finally able to thank him for his extraordinary service to our Nation.

While we were able to honor Mr. Colbert, there are thousands of other veterans who remain nameless. That is why on August 5, 2015, I introduced the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015, S. 1982, along with the senior Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN. Our legislation authorizes the addition of a Wall of Remembrance to the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The Wall of Remembrance would list the names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in theater in the Korean war, as well as the number of servicemembers who were wounded in action, are listed as missing in action, or who were prisoners of war during the Korean war. Authorizing a wall of remembrance here in the United States is just one way we can help ensure that those who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in the “forgotten war” are no longer forgotten.

As America celebrates Veterans Day, we stand united in honoring the acts of selfless service from our Nation’s veterans. Our veterans and military men and women and their families need to know that we remember them not just on Veterans Day but every single day of the year. Our veterans have protected our country and defended our values. These Americans are the bravest among us, and we applaud the innumerable sacrifices that they and their loved ones have made for this great country. As we celebrate Veterans Day, our thoughts and prayers are also with “veterans to be”—the men and women who are currently serving our country, especially those in harm’s way.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF KEN SARO-WIWA

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today marks a dark milestone on the long road to environmental justice. Twenty years ago, Nigerian environmental and human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa was hanged, along with eight fellow defendants, following an internationally denounced military tribunal.

Saro-Wiwa was a well-known author and television producer in his native Nigeria before he chose to devote himself full time to the causes of the Ogoni, a minority ethnic group of about 500,000 farmers and fishermen who hail from the Niger Delta. As president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People—MOSOP—he fought against the exploitation of Ogoni lands and the Ogoni people themselves by the oil drilling operations of Royal Dutch Shell.

As the oil industry grew to represent the main source of revenue for the Nigerian Government, the delta landscape was ravaged by oil spills and acid rain. Fertile farmland turned to oil-soaked wasteland. The region’s fish and wildlife were wiped out—along with the livelihood of the Ogoni. Out of the entire 5,000-person workforce employed by Shell in Nigeria, less than 100 were Ogoni.

Under Ken Saro-Wiwa’s leadership, MOSOP organized hundreds of thousands of Ogoni to demand environmental remediation, compensation for past damages, and a share in oil revenues. The regime of dictator General Sani Abacha responded with a brutal campaign of occupation, mass arrest, rape, execution, and the burning of Ogoni villages. In May 1994, Saro-Wiwa was abducted from his home and brought up on charges in connection with the murder of four Ogoni leaders. He was tried and convicted by a military tribunal that governments and human rights organizations worldwide condemned as fraudulent.

On November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa was put to death.

“The only crime he and his colleagues had committed,” reads Saro-Wiwa’s citation for the prestigious Godman Environmental Prize, “was to demand sound environmental practices and to ask for compensation for the devastation of Ogoni territories.”

A human rights lawsuit brought by Saro-Wiwa’s son and other victims’ families in U.S. Federal court alleged that Shell bribed at least two witnesses in the 1995 tribunal and that Shell’s manager in Nigeria offered Saro-Wiwa’s brother, another jailed activist, release from captivity in exchange for abandoning the movement. That suit was settled by Shell for \$15.5 million, just days before going to trial in 2009, following a protracted legal battle.

The Ogoni cause has been taken up by other Ogoni, both within Nigeria and living in exile, including Saro-Wiwa’s sons. The struggle and death of Ken Saro-Wiwa serve as a lasting inspi-

ration to people of all nations who seek relief from corporate abuse, government corruption, and environmental ruin. We will remember his noble fight for the basic right of a people to live in harmony with the Earth.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, for National Disability Employment Awareness Month last month, I congratulate and honor the Palmetto Goodwill in North Charleston, SC, for their outstanding commitment to service and work with the AbilityOne Program.

In 1974, a small group of citizens in the Charleston area wanted to address the lack of opportunity for persons with disabilities. The Palmetto Goodwill of South Carolina has answered the call of service by becoming a part of the United States AbilityOne Commission network with their Champions Program.

The Palmetto Goodwill has successfully implemented the Champions Program which aims to empower citizens of South Carolina that are blind or possessing a disability. Through providing employment opportunities, the Palmetto Goodwill is making strides to continue the mission of National Disability Employment Awareness Month throughout the year. Currently 85 percent of their employed staff is persons with a disability. I applaud the stellar work of the Champions Program and therefore recognize the Palmetto Goodwill.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA KALTENBACH

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to honor the service and retirement of one of my dear friends and most respected employees, Melissa Kaltenbach. Melissa has served me and the people of Michigan with infinite loyalty and dedication for the past 27 years.

Melissa began working for me in the Michigan House of Representatives and continued her service with me in the State Senate, U.S. House, and now in the U.S. Senate as my director of constituent services.

In so many ways, Melissa’s job is one of if not the most important jobs on my staff. That is because her work impacts people where it matters most—in their daily lives. Her compassion toward the people of Michigan and understanding of the problems they face has been instrumental in setting the high standards for constituent services in my office and throughout the State of Michigan.

She has a unique ability to listen and understand the needs of people, and she demonstrates grace and respect for the dignity of others, even in the most stressful times and most difficult circumstances. She has gone above and beyond in so many ways—incredible empathy, unwavering loyalty, and infinite patience.